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HEALTH CARE

Fauci: Hydroxychloroquine not effective against coronavirus

However, Fauci stopped short of calling for an outright ban of the drug.



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By **ZACHARY BRENNAN**
05/27/2020 10:22 AM EDT



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci on Wednesday became the first Trump administration official to say definitively that hydroxychloroquine is not an effective treatment for the coronavirus, based on the available data.

“The scientific data is really quite evident now about the lack of efficacy,” Fauci — the U.S. government’s top infectious disease expert — said on CNN.

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But he stopped short of calling for an outright ban of the drug, which President

Fauci's comments come days after the Lancet published a 96,000-patient observational study that concluded that hydroxychloroquine had no effect on Covid-19 and may have even caused some harm.

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France decided this week to ban the use of hydroxychloroquine, even in clinical trials, and the WHO has paused its clinical trials of the drug.

There is no data yet from randomized, controlled clinical trials of hydroxychloroquine — the gold standard for evaluating potential treatments. But Fauci was unequivocal on Wednesday, saying that “the data are clear right now.”

FILED UNDER: ANTHONY FAUCI, CORONAVIRUS, HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

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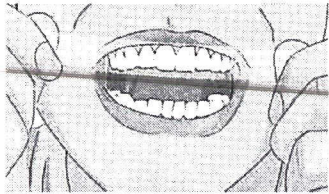
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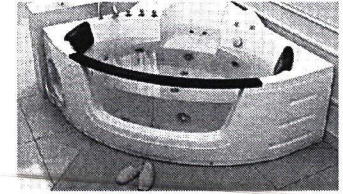
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